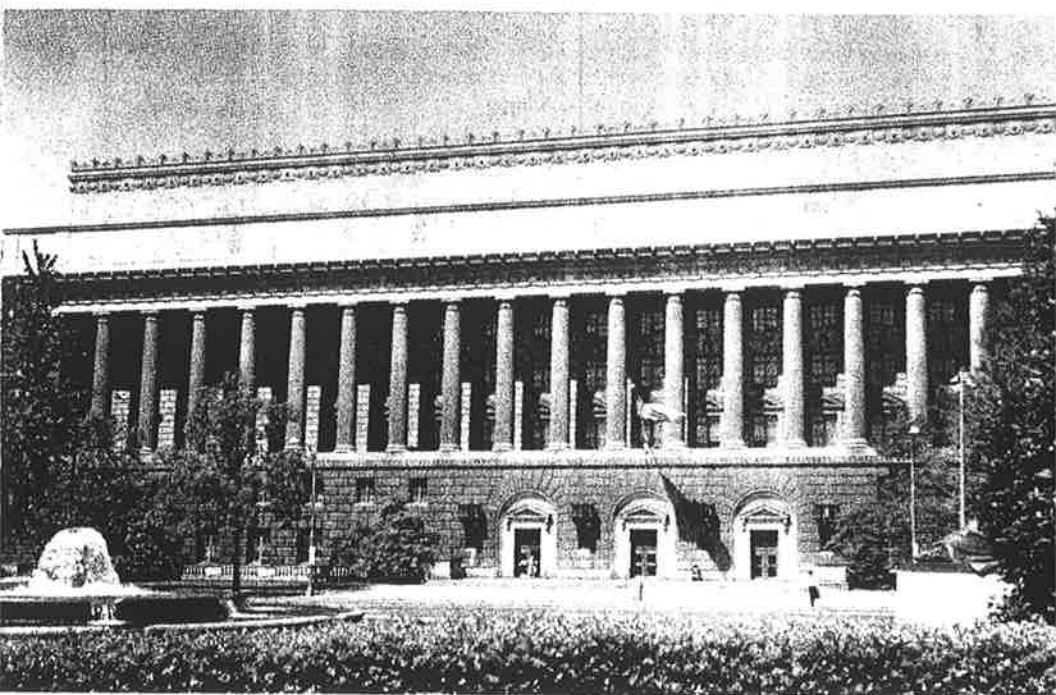




The Department of Commerce Herbert C. Hoover Building

Features of Interest





The Secretary's Office

First Floor, Center Section and Lobby

The lobby, approximately 67' X 135', is the most elaborately executed space within the building. The flooring is principally of Levanto marble and Travertine with mosaic borders. The alternating engaged Doric columns of Levanto marble and semi-circular arched openings have voussoirs and figural keystones. The hung plaster ceiling is in the Italian Renaissance mode with elaborate coffering. The ceiling is painted in gold with polychrome glazing.

Immediately west of the lobby is an auditorium with a seating capacity of 509 persons. It is newly renovated with the most modern and up-to-date audio and visual equipment. This equipment is adapted to black and white and color television cameras. Four multi-lingual booths provide for simultaneous translations. The stage is sufficiently lighted to accommodate a full-scale variety production.

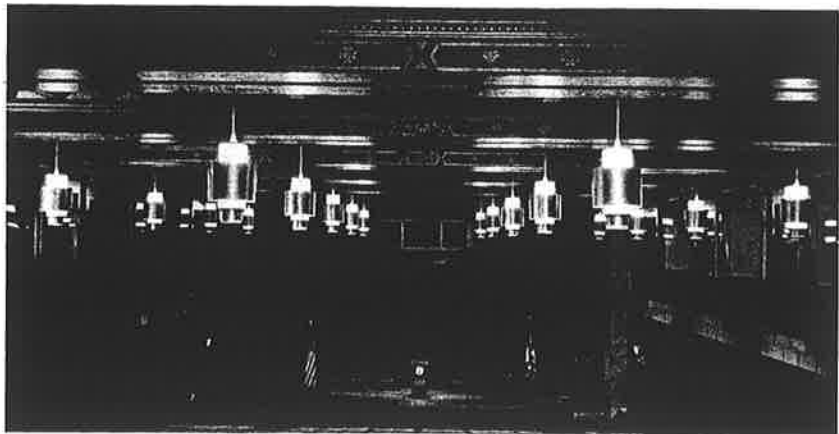
Under the auditorium are five conference rooms. The lobby, auditorium, and conference rooms are made available to individuals and organizations for educational, cultural, and recreational activities as part of the "Living Buildings" program encouraging the use of Federal Buildings.

Seventh Floor, Center Section

The Department of Commerce Library is located on the seventh floor in the central section of the Herbert Clark Hoover Building facing Fourteenth Street. The library collection contains materials related to economics, business, industry, foreign trade, statistics, demography, telecommunications, marketing and technical information. An extensive collection of current periodicals and reference resources is maintained in print and microform. The library accesses for Department personnel specialized data bases covering subject matter related to Departmental tasks. Public service hours are maintained from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



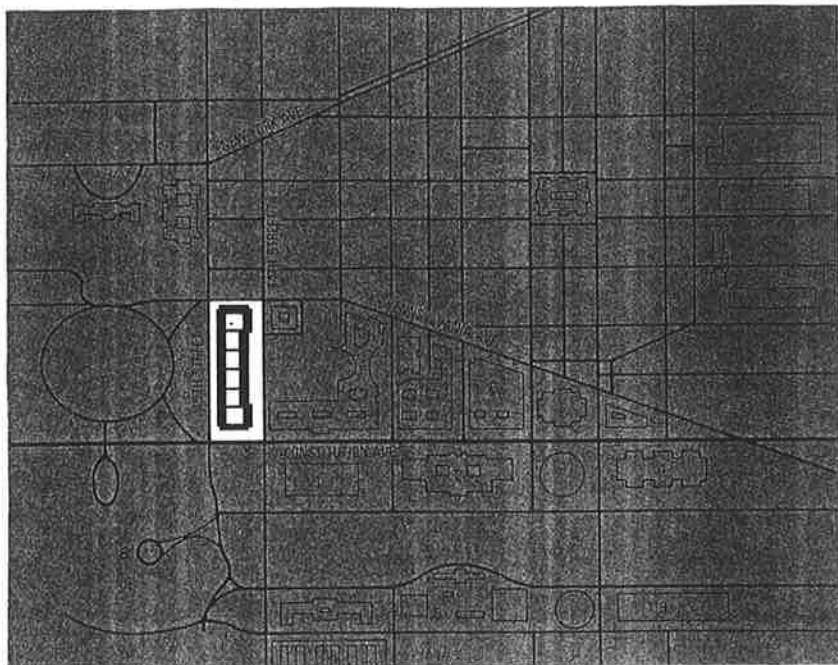
14th Street lobby ceiling detail



The auditorium seats 509

First Floor North Section

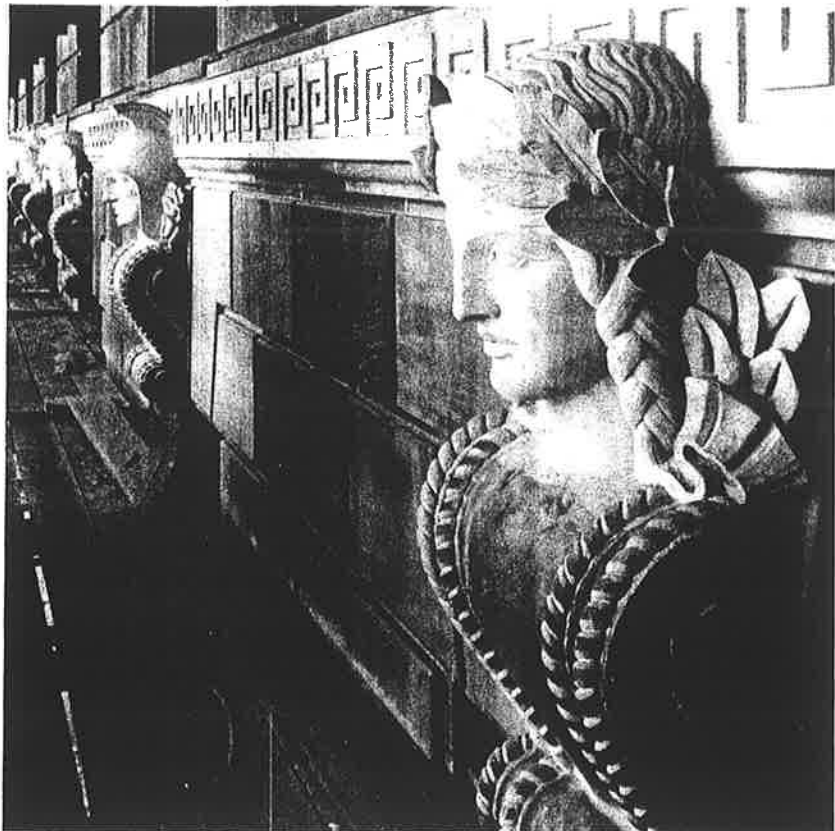
The Great Hall is the largest of the significant public spaces in the Herbert C. Hoover Building. The Hall occupies the bulk of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor and is approximately 62 feet wide and 220 feet long, rising to a height of two stories. The Great Hall was originally used as the Patent Search Room. In 1976, it was the Bicentennial Visitors Center during our Nation's 200th Anniversary. At present, it is the site of the Washington Tourist Information Center. Free tourist information and services are provided annually to over a quarter of a million visitors to our Nation's Capital. Services provided include the dispensing of information on historical, Governmental, and recreational areas, as well as maps and brochures on various aspects of activities in Washington, D.C. Continuing displays on various current subjects provide interest and help to orient the visitors to their surroundings. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, October through March, and seven days a week, April through September, closed on holidays.



The Commerce Department is located near the following places of interest to visitors. The Smithsonian Institutions: (1) Museums of History & Technology; (2) Natural History; (3) Natural Air and Space Museum; (4) National Gallery of Art; (5) Freer Art Gallery, (6) Justice Department, (7) the White House and (8) the Washington Monument.

Basement, Center Section

The National Aquarium, the oldest public aquarium in the country, was first established in 1873 and is now located directly under the lobby of the main entrance to the building. Operated since 1982 under the direction of the National Aquarium Society, a private, nonprofit organization, the Aquarium displays over 1,000 fresh- and saltwater specimens, representing approximately 200 species from the United States and around the world. A touch tank allows visitors the opportunity to get a closer look at crabs, conchs, and sea urchins, and a mini-theater features continuous showings of films on aquatic life. Sharks are fed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 2 pm. Piranha feedings are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at 2 pm. The Aquarium is open daily from 9 to 5. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50¢ for children. Over 200,000 people visit the Aquarium annually, including many school groups. The cafeteria, open to the public, is adjacent to the Aquarium. A cafeteria serves employees of the Department, with a seating capacity of 586, and is located in the central part of the basement.



Keystone consoles and figures between 4th and 5th floors

Facts Regarding the Department of Commerce Building

The building covers an area of approximately 8 acres—3 full city blocks. Its length is 1,050 feet; width, 325 feet; height, 7 stories and basement, and a subbasement for boiler rooms.

It contains 27,159,045 cubic feet.

The total gross floor area is 1,606,066 square feet.

The net floor area, including offices, laboratories, shops, etc., is 1,092,800 square feet.

There are 3,311 rooms.

There are 5,200 windows, containing 250,000 square feet of glass.

Electric outlets for telephones, power, signals, electric lights, etc., to the number of 31,000 have been provided.

There are 15 entrances to the building.

There are 27 passenger and 5 freight elevators, the passenger cars having a capacity of 18 passengers per car.

The building is heated from the Government Central Heating Plant.

The basement floor in some places is approximately 3 feet thick to withstand the pressure of water of Tiber Creek, which flows under the building.

The building was completed in 1932.



Commerce Building as seen from the Washington Monument

Construction Materials Used

Structural steel: 16,400 tons.

Limestone, from Indiana: 2,000 carloads.

Granite quarried in Connecticut, sawed, cut, and milled in Massachusetts: 150 carloads.

Marble from Missouri: 900 tons.

Base marble, from Vermont: 470 tons.

Mankato stone, from Minnesota: 860 tons.

Small quantities of domestic travertine from Colorado and Georgia, of which 500 tons of travertine chips from Georgia were used for terrazzo floors.

Cafeteria, serving rooms, and kitchen floors; tile from West Virginia: 35 tons.

Toilet rooms, wall and floor tile, from Ohio: 300 tons.

Common brick, from the District of Columbia: 10,000,000.

Face brick, from Pennsylvania: 1,500,000.

Terra cotta, from North Carolina and West Virginia: 27,000 tons.

Reinforced concrete piling supporting the building: 80 miles or 14,000 piles.

Plastering on walls and ceilings: 99 acres.

Base of building, up to sill of first-floor windows is of granite; balance of walls if of Indiana limestone, except four courts of brick.

Roof: 95,000 square feet, or 400 tons of promenade tile, and 160,000 square feet, or 1,200 tons of Mission tile. Two tons of copper nails were used in the roof.

Bronze hardware used: 25 tons.



Washington visitors information center

Inscriptions on Building

Constitution Avenue facade. "The Department of Commerce assembles here the forces designed by Congress to advance the interests of industry and trade. Through experiemntal research, the dissemination of knowledge, and administrative vigilance it stimulates the progress of America upon land and sea and in the air and thereby speeds the Nation in the march of manking."

Pennsylvania Avenue facade. "Based upon foundations of devotion and labor the United States is enriched by other golden threads in the genius of its people. Inventive daring illumines their diligence. Adventurous ardor invigorates the work of their hands. Under governmental guardianship their ideas and their activities are assured the liberty that is the soul of achievement."

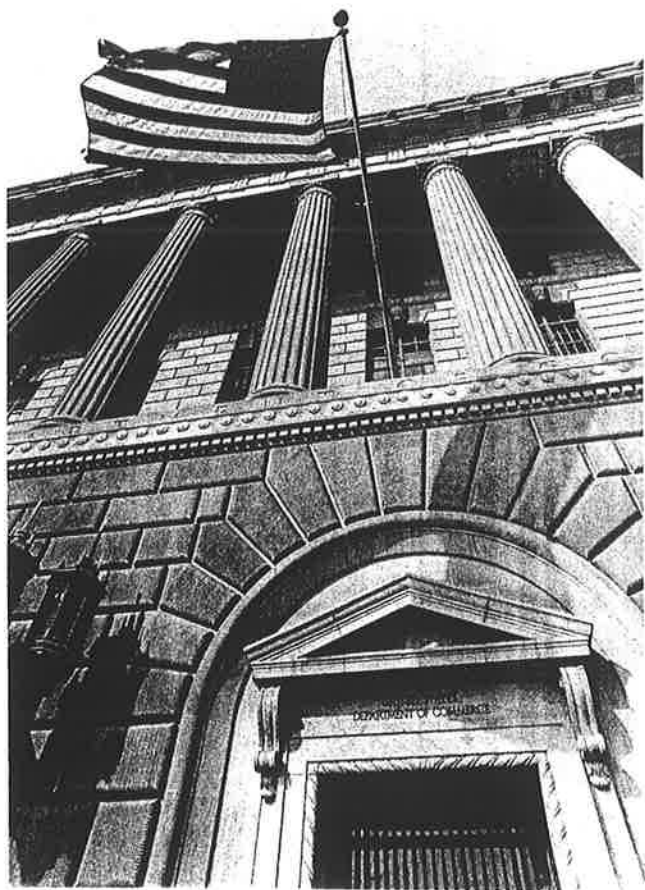
Fourteenth Street facade. "The inspiration that guided our forefathers led them to secure above all things the unity of our country. We rest upon government by consent of the governed and the political order of the United States is the expression of a patriotic ideal which welds together all the elements of our national energy promoting the organization that fosters individual initiative. Within this edifice are established agencies that have been created to buttress the life of the people, to clarify their problems and coordinate their resources, seeking to lighten burdens without lessening the rpsponsibility of the citizen. In serving one and all they are dedicated to the purpose of the founders and other highest hopes of the future with their loyal administration given to the integrity and welfare of the Nation."

Fifteenth Street entrance, north section. "The patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius."—Lincoln.

Fifteenth Street, north entrance, center section. "Commerce defies every wind, outrides every tempest, and invades every zone."—Bancroft.

Fifteenth Street, south entrance, center section. "Commerce among nations should be fair and equitable."—Franklin.

Fifteenth Street entrance, south section. "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair."—Washington.



Main 14th Street entrance showing the American Flag

